

Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, January 31, 2018 – 6:30 pm
Rowe Town Hall - Hearing Room 1

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Morse at 6:30pm

Present: Chair Jennifer Morse, Vice-Chair Dennis May, Chuck Sokol and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau

Also Present: Jon Lev, School Superintendent, Carrie Burnett, NBSU Business Manager, Joanne Semanie Treasurer, Finance Committee: Paul McLatchy III and Loretta Dionne, School Committee Member Ellen Miller

MINUTES

Motion to accept Minutes of January 24, 2018: Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Morse to accept the Minutes of January 24, 2018 with a correction. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair May was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

OLD BUSINESS

1. MLP Update: Executive Secretary reported that she would file the necessary paperwork to request the second disbursement for the Last Mile Fiber Network Grant from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development tomorrow. It was noted that there was one change in the amount of one of the pole application amounts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Hearings:

-School Committee: Jon Lev, North Berkshire School Union (NBSU) Superintendent and Carrie Burnett, NBSU Business Manager presented the FY19 Rowe Elementary School Budget and future projects, personnel changes and budget cuts. The Mohawk Trail Regional School District formula for calculating student tuition was explained and discussed. School Choice funds were discussed and whether they could be used to reduce the budget request. It was agreed to use the School Choice funds to reduce the budget requests by \$50,000.00.

-Treasurer: Treasurer Joanne Semanie presented her budget and indicated she worked many more hours than paid for and requested compensation for 20 hours per week. There was some discussion about how to reorganize town administration.

-Conservation Commission: Conservation Commission Chair Ramon Sanchez sent in his FY 19 Budget with an explanation for the increase was due to board member training. Following discussion, it was agreed that training for departments should be encouraged and was necessary.

-Accountant: Town Accountant Tracey Baronas presented her budget with a slight reduction. She requested that the town set aside monies for software in the future.

- Town Clerk: Members reviewed the Town Clerk budget which had an increase due to the number of elections in the coming year.
 - Tax Collector: The Tax Collector's budget included an increase due to software support and postage which was moved from the General Administration line item to individual departments to better reflect their expenses.
 - Admin: Members reviewed the Executive Secretary's notes on the Town Hall maintenance recommendations and administrative detail. It was agreed to speak about issues in the near future.
 - Town Government: The preliminary numbers were reviewed for the General Government including health insurance costs. There was discussion about reducing the town contribution to health insurance incrementally.
2. New Time Sheet Update: Treasurer Joanne Semanie has updated timesheets for employees to make a uniform system with all employees. It will be implemented at the end of February.
 3. Radio Communications: Chair Morse reported that she attended the Executive Council meeting for Franklin Regional Council of Governments and there was a presentation about upgrading the regional emergency communications systems due to the age of the equipment and not being about to find parts to repair systems. The upgrade would meet the long-term state goal of having a statewide system. Chair Morse said she will send a report on the topic via email to Board Members.
 4. Executive Secretary Updates: Ms. Boudreau asked about an invoice and it was agreed to request a Reserve Fund Transfer from the Finance Committee. She reported that she spoke with the electrician about repairing the flag pole lamp and he will return to delve into.
 5. Police Issue: There was discussion about a citizen driving his tractor on the road in the process of bringing sand to elderly citizen neighbors. Vice-Chair May was gathering information before contacting the citizen to discuss.

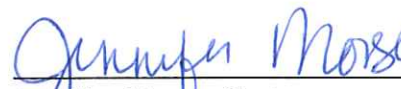
Citizen Comments

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Morse made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion, seconded Vice-Chair May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

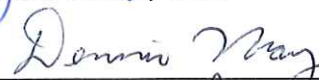
Janice Boudreau
Executive Secretary

Approval Date: February 27, 2018


Approved:



Jennifer Morse, Chair



Dennis May, Vice-Chair



Chuck Sokol, Select Board Member

Documents:

- Agenda 01-31-18
- Budgets: School Budget, Tax Collector, Accountant, Admin, Conservation Commission